



## BUILDING ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL STABILITY FOR PARENTS THROUGH LEGAL SERVICES, COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY

### Resilient Families Program Strategy Overview

We catalyze and sustain opportunities to ensure that community resources meet families' needs and empower parents to implement their vision for the healthy development and well-being of their families.

### GRANTEE PARTNER: THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

Legal Aid uses the power of the law to ensure access to basic needs and lift people out of poverty. A legal solution is often the key to keeping your home, securing a protective order to be free of an abusive relationship, or getting your child the extra help they are entitled to in school. Overall, Legal Aid's goals are to (1) improve safety and health, (2) promote education and economic security, (3) secure decent and affordable housing, and (4) increase meaningful access to courts and government agencies for vulnerable populations.

#### WHAT IS THE NEED?

When someone is faced with the loss of something as basic as shelter, income, safety or education, the best response is often the use of our legal system. But if you are facing the loss of shelter, safety or economic security, – there is no right to counsel in United States civil courts. Legal Aid – a private nonprofit – works to fill this gap in the judicial system. Legal Aid's most recent community "Legal Needs Assessment" found nearly 1/3 of the population in Northeast Ohio are poor and eligible for Legal Aid's services.

#### WHAT WE FUNDED

The Foundation's grant (\$1,000,000 over three years) provides operating support for The Legal Aid Society's continuing services.



GOALS FOR THIS GRANT	THE APPROACH WE SUPPORT	IMPACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide legal services to Cleveland-area low-income residents;</li> <li>• Deepen partnerships with agencies that provide referrals and services to The Legal Aid Society's clients;</li> <li>• Educate service providers on financial security issues;</li> <li>• Engage in regional policy development/advocacy;</li> <li>• Help parents acquire information and resources to build financial security, become knowledgeable about healthy childhood development, and empower families to support themselves and one another.</li> </ul>	<p>The Legal Aid Society will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represent clients in administrative hearings, negotiations and litigation in areas of law related to improving health and financial stability, including consumer rights, domestic relations, education, employment, housing, health, public benefits and taxes;</li> <li>• Provide community legal education and advice to clients;</li> <li>• Partner with service providers to ensure that outcomes achieved through legal representation have lasting impacts on families;</li> <li>• Advocate for systemic solutions that affect low-income populations related to issues of health and financial security.</li> </ul>	<p>Opportunities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased safety for 99% or 260 clients, where safety was an issue;</li> <li>• Prevented foreclosures for 72% or 133 clients;</li> <li>• Prevented evictions for 97% or 123 clients;</li> <li>• Secured subsidized housing for 94% or 120 clients;</li> <li>• Secured health insurance for 97% or 102 clients;</li> <li>• Removed education barriers for 88% or 115 clients;</li> <li>• Increased assets and income and reduced debt by \$18 million for clients helped.</li> </ul>